

Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association



Newsletter Spring 2011

Chairman-Ray Hudson

Vice Chairman-Kevin Wilkinson, Treasurer-Dave Dawson, Communications-Dana Wiffen, Secretary-Claire Tack

Ray Hudson Receives Award



Your Chairman receives his award from Bexley Mayor Councillor Val Clark for "Long Service to the Community" well done Ray.

Message from the Chairman

Your Committee is taking huge steps to increase the profile of Neighbourhood Watch with a series of meetings with Bexley's elected MP's.



Dave, Kevin & Ray Chat with MP-David Evernett

Having already met with James Brokenshire MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup, and David Evernett MP for Bexleyheath and Crayford & Teresa Pearce-MP for Erith and Thamesmead, we are pleased to report that all 3 were positive and pledged their support for NW.

There is also a scheduled meeting to meet James Cleverley-GLA Member for Bexley and Bromley in June.

The future looks to be challenging financially, although the funding needed to continue office administration for a further year has been received. BBNWA is a charity run by volunteers which does not receive any Government funding.

With a new Borough Police Commander Chief Superintendent David Stringer and with Superintendent Darren Williams and Chief Inspector Mark Stockford also newly appointed.

Both Dave Dawson, Kevin Wilkinson and I met with Chief Inspectors Tony Gowen and Mark Stockford to discuss how we could work together more effectively on Monday 4th April and found them encouraging and helpful.

They gave us a very warm welcome and were very positive in their support for Neighbourhood Watch, recognising our important role in keeping Bexley residents safe. We had a frank exchange of about some of the issues facing us. We received strong commitment to our plan to develop stronger relationships with all SNT's and to raise our profile throughout the borough with positive offers to be involved in SNT training sessions and to use their publicity arrangements with News Shopper. Watch out for our column in this monthly page. We firmly believe in the value of Neighbourhood Watch to our community. We need to embrace change in a positive way and are looking at how we can re-engage with members and residents as well as expand our coverage and scope. You will see throughout this newsletter that we ask for your feedback on individual issues and will listen to your opinions. Please feel free to contact me by email bexwatch-office@btconnect.com with CHAIRMAN in the subject/title line. If you don't have email you can write to me **BexleyBoroughNeighbourhood Watch Association, Belvedere Police Station, 2 Nuxley Road, Belvedere, DA17 5JF.**

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N.W.AGM-Friday 10th June 2011 in the Council Chamber at The Civic Centre- Bexleyheath from 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Elections for your committee will take place and relevant voting forms will be included with this letter. Please try and attend it is important and only once a year. Thank you.

The MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup James Brokenshire will be attending.

Have we got your email address?

Sending you information by email not only saves us time and money but enables us to keep you more informed about timely issues and events, please let us know by sending your details in an email to bexwatch-office@btconnect.com with EMAIL ADDRESS in the subject/title line.

Visit our website

You may already know that we have a website www.bexleywatch.org.uk but if you've visited it in the past you will probably have noticed it was been rather out of date.

This is in the process of being changed.

Strategic Plan 2011/12

Neighbourhood Watch has unveiled its newly developed Strategic Plan and has already used it to great effect to lobby Government on Neighbourhood Watch issues and gain grants for the coming year.

Most importantly, the Plan outlines objectives for 2011/12. In addition it includes an overview of where the association is currently, details of activities over the past two years and a brief history of the Neighbourhood Watch in Bexley.

A lot of work is on the agenda, the objectives outlined are to:

- Reduce operating costs
- Move to a more community based approach
- Gain commercial sponsorship
- Build closer relationships with residents associations
- Recover lapsed watches
- Engage members electronically
- Develop a Neighbourhood Watch package for PCSO's

- Develop Neighbourhood Watch champions and engage the younger generation
- Fill a void left by a potential depleted police and local services due to economic cutbacks

The Plan is vital in communicating these ambitions and it was used at a recent meeting about Parliaments position on Neighbourhood Watch at a meeting with James Brokenshire MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup and Parliamentary Under Secretary for crime reduction at the Home Office. It has already been distributed to Bexley Council senior managers, the Bexley Metropolitan Police Commander, Bexley Police Engagement Group, representative on the London Assembly and local Councillors and Members of Parliament and a number of meetings and presentations to this group have been held.

The Strategic Plan has enabled us to articulate how Neighbourhood Watch is working and greatly assisted us in gaining grants from Bexley Council and Bexley Community Police

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Engagement Group for the coming year.

A full copy of our Strategic Plan is available on our website at www.bexleywatch.org.uk

BCPEG –Transport Safety Meeting Monday 28th March 2011

Representatives of the SNT 's, The Transport Police, TFL and Bexley Transport Focus Group discussed various safety problems in the borough from travelling to and from stations late at night to travelling on buses during to and from school times.

The 3 most common were complaints were;

- 1) Security at Unmanned stations
- 2) Drunk behaviour on trains late at night
- 3) Problems with the numbers of children/youngsters at the Bexleyheath Clock Tower during the end of school days-mid afternoon.

With regards to unmanned stations we were informed that all stations have CCTV and that transport police are now working until 1am so they can respond to all late night problems.

We were also informed that if anyone feels under threat whilst travelling that they can pull the emergency cord whilst the train is at a station without the fear of prosecution

Ways of staggering/spreading out bus stops could relieve the pressure at the clock tower main stopping area and the withdrawal of free passes from those youngsters whom misbehave on buses is also being actioned as a deterrent.

Visit to-Police Central Communication Command in Lambeth-Thursday 10th March 2011

Both Ray and Dana visited Central Communication Command in Lambeth and those invited were given an insight into the complex workings into how one of the 3 centres for London provide a vital front of front support for our police force in London. Working under similar pressure to air traffic control, officers have to analyse incoming calls and despatch cars according to levels of priority whilst also extracting all the relevant facts from an often distressed caller.

Age UK

Age concern outlined what they can do to help the more house bound senior citizens and they have volunteers to assist in many areas, including

minor repairs, gardening and even volunteers that will visit for an hour once a week for a chat. Visit www.ageuk.org.uk.

The Cinnamon Trust

If you know anyone who has become housebound and who has a dog they cannot walk themselves, The Cinnamon Trust will send a volunteer several times a week to help, for further information contact www.cinnamon.org.uk

Has your Road got a Residents Association?

If your road has a Residents Association but no Neighbourhood Watch, this is a good time to contact us to help you set one up.

Members of Cold Blow Crescent Resident's Association question their MP James Brokenshire at The House of Commons committee room (see photo). He is a strong supporter of BBNWA and has various ideas to help us move forward.



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National NW-Website goes live.

The National NW-Website is now live and available on www.ourwatch.org.uk

Shed Burglary



Your shed or garage is also at risk of burglary; gardening equipment, bikes and lawn mowers are all easily sold on by thieves. Your hand tools can also be used to break into homes. Take action now – lock your shed and garage, alarm them and mark your property. If you or one of your neighbours has already had your shed broken into, let us have details as we have a small number of shed alarms to give away. Email bexwatch-office@btconnect.com with SHED in the subject/title line.

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

This is now being led by Neighbourhood Watch. The current scheme has met with limited success so we are looking at how we can

improve it. The scheme was designed to deter uninvited callers including distraction burglars, rogue traders and bogus callers. The idea is to encourage vulnerable people not to open their door to any uninvited caller. Instead they should show the caller a card telling them to contact their nominated neighbour who will check their identity. The neighbour, who could also be a friend or relative living nearby, will then return with the caller once they have confirmed they are genuine. If you have any leaflets please do not use them. We hope to have new leaflets and instructions available within the next 3 months.

What is Bexley CPEG?

Bexley CPEG is a group of volunteers whose main function is to help make Bexley borough safer by providing a public forum by holding public meetings, where local people and groups can have direct access to senior officers from the police, the local council and other statutory agencies and have constructive discussion and debate about policing, crime and community safety issues in the borough. Our members are representatives from Bexley community groups and other organisations.

Bexley CPEG work closely with the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and Panels in the

borough and Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Everyone is welcome to our public meetings 7.00-9.00pm.

20th June 2011 Civic Centre, Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7LB.

AGM and a chance to meet the new Borough Commander Dave Stringer followed by a presentation from the Bexley Care Trust on the proposed NHS reforms.

19th September 2011 Upper hall, Bexleyheath School, Woolwich Road, Bexleyheath DA6 7DA. Territorial Support Group Workshop “The Situation has Changed” Come and experience the policing of a public demonstration – make your own group decisions.

21st November 2011 Civic Centre, Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7LB. Hear from those who have responsibility for your safety in Bexley.

We play our part in the community:

In 2010 Bexley CPEG worked with Bexley Community Safety Partnership to submit a successful bid to Cory Environmental Trust to refurbish the **Wolvercote Road ball court** in Thamesmead, and to contribute towards the **Graffiti Arts Project** in August 2010, where a diverse group of young people decorated the walls of

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the ball court with graffiti artwork.

Bexley CPEG funded ten **football coaching sessions** for the young people of Thamesmead run by Charlton Athletic Community Trust in the winter of 2010/11.

Bexley CPEG funded the **Bexley Youth Council** to write and film "Alcoshock", a DVD on the issues of teenage binge drinking and showed it to the public at our November 2010 meeting.

Recently we have given a grant to **Diversions**, which is a scuba-diving project aimed at all children of all abilities from 8-18, designed to give children a chance to develop an interest in scuba-diving rather than hanging around the streets of Bexley.

For more information about Bexley CPEG contact Carol on **020 8311 0951** Check out our website go to **www.bexleycpeg.org.uk** Our Email Address: **info@bexleycpeg.org.uk**

Or Write to: **Bexley CPEG, Belvedere Community Centre, Mitchell Close, Belvedere, Kent DA17 6AA**